(c) the action taken to help the Indians still there to get visa for coming back to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) On account of continuing civil conflict in Afghanistan a large number of Afghan nationals including those of Indian origin are presently living in India. In keeping with our traditional policy of friendship towards the people of Aghanistan all Afghan nationals, including those of Indian origin, who came to India with valid travel documents/passports are being allowed to stay unhindered; they are being granted six monthly visa extensions.

(c) Visa applications for all Afghan nationals including those of Indian origin are being considered on a case by case basis.

Indonesian support to India for a seat in security council

176. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indonesia has offered to support India's claim for membership of the UN Security Council; and

(b) what is Government's current assessment of the worldwide support of India in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Indonesia from 10th to 14th January, 2001. At the joint press conference, President Aburrahman Wahid expressed his personal support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. But he added that he would have to discuss the issue with his cabinet before taking a formal view.

(b) There is a growing momentum in support of India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Many developed and developing countries have indicated support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council in the UN and/or bilaterally.